



OIL/WATER SEPARATOR (OWS) MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

Controlling fats, oils and grease (FOG) in the collection system is an important component of an overall plan for minimizing sanitary sewer overflows. Proper cleaning and maintenance of pretreatment devices is critical to the proper performance and effectiveness of pretreatment devices to eliminate/reduce FOG discharges into the sanitary sewer system.

The purpose of this document is to establish uniform cleaning and maintenance procedures of pretreatment devices by providing guidance to local businesses.

Though the following guidance items may be performed by an independent contractor it is ultimately the responsibility of the facility owner to ensure all guidance items are satisfactorily completed.

General Oil/Water Separator (OWS) Maintenance and Cleaning:

Do not drain petroleum, oil, or lubricants directly to an OWS. The structures are designed to manage these materials at low and medium concentrations in sanitary sewage, not as slug loads.

Do not drain antifreeze, degreasers, detergents, fuels, alcohols, solvents, coolant, or paint to the OWS.

Separator compartment covers should be tightly sealed to ensure floor drainage only enters the first compartment of the OWS.

Detergents and solvents can emulsify oil and grease, allowing the particles to enter the sewer, so these should not be disposed of in drains entering the OWS.

Drains should be kept free of debris and sediment to the maximum extent practicable.

Spill cleanup materials should be maintained in the area served by the OWS.

Keep maintenance records on site for at least three years. The records at a minimum shall contain date of service, type of service (description of service), and service identity (name, address of contractor).

Cleaning of the OWS is required when there has been a spill to the OWS that exceeds ten gallons of oil, one gallon of detergent or solvent, or any material prohibited by city code.

The following guidelines are appropriate for determining when to clean if manufacturer's recommendations are unknown:

1. When sludge accumulates to 25% of the wetted height of the separator compartment; or
2. When oil accumulates to 5% of the wetted height of the separator compartment; or
3. When 75% of the retention capacity of the OWS is filled.

When cleaning is required, it shall be performed by licensed OWS maintenance companies.

All material removed from a pretreatment device shall be disposed of in a proper manner